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3-203IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): SAITOH, et al.

Serial No.: 10/019,957

Filed: January 7, 2002

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING HYDROXYLATED FATTY
ACIDS AND δ -LACTONES

Group: 1651

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 8, 2002

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find copies of documents to be considered in connection with examination of the above-identified application. These enclosed documents include (1) copies of documents mentioned in the specification of the above-identified application (see, for example, the discussion on pages 1 and 2 of Applicants' specification), (2) U.S. patents corresponding to documents mentioned in the specification (note U.S. Patent No. 5,168,054, corresponding to JP No. 3-187387; and U.S. Patent No. 5,215,901, corresponding to JP No. 3-219886), and (3) other documents. Also enclosed is a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed documents.

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This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted on the first business day after the third-month anniversary of filing of the above-identified application. Accordingly, requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

In any event, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. For this reason also, requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by English-language abstracts included with each document, as well as discussions in connection with these documents in Applicants' specification, on pages 1 and 2 thereof.

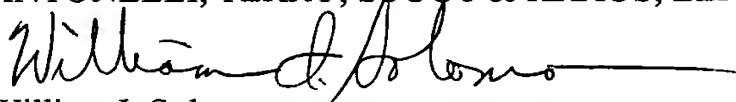
In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with all of the enclosed documents, listed on the enclosed Form. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the

filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 506.41066X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk
Enclosures

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